

## WOMEN AND CHILDREN BEGIN SECOND WINTER OF MISERY IN COLORADO

BY EDWARD A. EVANS

Special Commissioner of The Day Book, Who Is in Southern Colorado Investigating Conditions There  
Trinidad, Colo., Dec. 5. — Five thousand women and children are braving, for the second time since Colorado's coal strike started, the suffering and misery that a mountain winter means for those whose shelter is only flimsy tents or old and poorly built cabins.

Bravely, even cheerfully, they are enduring their privations because their fathers and husbands are on strike—on strike for a principle in which **EVEN THE LITTLEST CHILDREN BELIEVE WITH TERRIBLE EARNESTNESS:**

All through the strike the women and children of the union miners have played a brave part. At Sopris, a year ago, 75-year-old Mother Burns was arrested by militiamen because she insisted on singing one of the union songs.

It was Gustav Yenskenski, 11 who told a committee of congressmen last February how he had struggled and fought with two state soldiers who were invading and plundering his home.

At Ludlow, in April, 11 little children and two women died by fire in the massacre that blackened the name of Colorado.

Women and children, I find, are still bravely helping to carry on the struggle.

Mrs. Charley Castolino, whose husband is a striker, lives in a bare little house in Trinidad now. She and her three children escaped from Ludlow during the battle and massacre.

"No, I wouldn't have Charley go back to work at the mines—not till the strike is settled," Mrs. Castolino told me.

"We ain't got much here, but I don't want my man scabbing. The union takes care of us good, so we

don't get much hungry, and the kids has got pretty good clothes to wear. But when the strike is over, then," and Mrs. Castolino's face, under her ugly brown shawl, wreathed into smiles, "we'll get good clothes and lots to eat.

"I get scared sometimes, for I remember the fighting and burning at Ludlow, and I think, perhaps, there might be more troubles like that. But Charley, he says that if the strike ain't going to be settled right any other way, he thinks the men might as well get the guns again and fight it out. I hope Charley don't get killed or anything, but I guess he's right, only I hope this time me and the kids don't get in it."

There are 10 tent colonies in the Trinidad district, the largest at Ludlow, where there are 300 men, about 200 women and 250 children. Near Walsenburg there are four more strikers' colonies.

The winter, so far, has been mercifully mild. A year ago the district was blanketed with three feet of snow and almost no cold weather. Any day now, however, a bitter blizzard may break over the tent homes.

The union is still supporting the strikers, paying out every week thousands of dollars in strike benefits. Tents in the colonies, or frame or 'doble houses in Trinidad, Walsenburg, Aguilar, Starville, Segudo or Sopris are provided rent free.

In addition the union distributes coal and shoes and meager supplies of clothing. Doctors, paid by the union, furnish medical attention to the miners.

It isn't good policy for business men of the district, most of whom are dependent upon the trade of the coal companies and their employes for existence, to show over much sympathy for the strikers. They may sympathize covertly with the union, but if they express their sentiments